



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
Room 280A  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

April 18, 2019  
9:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: April 18, 2019 / 9:00 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Beverly Hills Unified School District Board Member, Tristen Walker-Shuman, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Saleh read the Civility Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Chair Saleh

Commissioners Absent: Friedman, Vice Chair Blumenfeld

Staff Present: James R. Latta, Linda Kyriazi

Vice Chair Blumenfeld arrived at 9:01 a.m.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

Speakers: None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to amend the order of the items on the agenda. By order of Chair Saleh, Item #5 be moved ahead to accommodate guest speakers.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 21, 2019.

MOTION by Berman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to approve the Meeting Minutes. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh

NOES: None

ABSENT: Friedman

ABSTAIN: None

CARRIED

## **REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES**

Beverly Hills Unified School District

Beverly Hills Unified School District Board Member, Tristen Walker-Shuman updated the Commission on the following items:

- The Beverly Hills High School Robotics Team is set to compete with students around the globe.
- The Beverly Hills Teen Advisory Committee organized a movie night screening the film *Incredibles 2*. Cans of food were collected for the event that were given to Sova-Bay Food Pantry.
- Three dozen students from Hawthorne School were selected to attend Space Camp Academy in Alabama.
- The Beverly Hills High School Speech and Debate Team brought home four medals and two trophies.
- Beverly Hills High School had Career Day this past month.
- Horace Mann School hosted a Makerspace event along with Beverly Vista for families that will be merging for the reconfiguration. Tours still continue for the families merging.
- Horace Mann talent show, grades 4-8, hosted a benefit concert and raised \$2,000 for the Boys and Girls Club in Malibu who were impacted by the recent fires.
- The BHUSD Art Show opened this week in City Hall's Municipal Gallery. Please stop by and view the amazing art through April 25, 2019.
- El Rodeo Musical Theatre will be presenting the play "Annie" on April 25, 2019 at 7pm and April 26, 2019 at 4pm in the Salter Theatre at the High School.
- The BubbleFest & Carnival is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, 2019 at Beverly Vista School.
- May 5, 2019 is the Hawthorne & El Rodeo carnival.
- May 6 – 10, 2019 is Teacher Appreciation Week.
- April 29, 2019 is graduation for all of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders, May 30, 2019 is 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation and June 1, 2019 is Beverly Hills High School graduation.
- All grade levels will go to their new school locations on April 25, 2019.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Due to a Police Department event, no representative was able to attend.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **2. Random Acts of Kindness Program**

Every month the Commissioners will have the opportunity to share Random Acts of Kindness that occur within the City of Beverly Hills.

- Commissioner Popovich Levyn shared stories of two past recipients who were presented with Kindness pins. One informed the Commissioner that a movie theatre presented her with a free pass. Another recipient, who works at a coffee store and wears her pin proudly at work, said customers who come in, both locally and tourists, notice the pin and ask how one can receive such a pin. The message is being passed forward.
- Chair Saleh acknowledged Beverly Hills resident Rhoda Sharp, who received the City of Beverly Hills Legacy Resident & Kindness Recognition from City Council on April 16, 2019.
- The City Council gave resident and Recreation and Parks Vice Chair, Julian Javor, the first Kindness recognition award on April 2, 2019.
- Chair Saleh gave a shout-out to City Councilmember Lili Bosse for regular posting inspirational quotes about Kindness in her social media platforms.

- Chair Saleh requested submissions from the Commission for future Kindness awards and suggested Julie Dobkin Gilbert for the next award for all her charity work which includes organizing the blood drives at all the school.
- Chair Saleh additionally recommended Health and Safety Commissioner Myra Lurie.
- Chair Saleh updated the Commission on a Netflix series entitled, "The Kindness Diaries." The series debuted in 2017 and was created by Leon Logothetis, who travels the world with only a vintage motorbike and the kindness of strangers, which he pays back in unexpected, inspiring ways. Chair Saleh has been communicating with Mr. Logothetis about possibly working together and is requesting from the Commission that they view an episode or read about the series, and send any ideas of collaboration to staff.
- Chair Saleh requested changing the tab from "Random Acts of Kindness" to "The Kindness" tab so all areas of Kindness can be discussed such as ideas, events and other local situations where Kindness was served.

3. FY 2019-20 Community Assistance Grant Fund Review of Joint Ad Hoc Recommendations  
On April 10, 2019, the Charitable Solicitations Commission confirmed the joint ad hoc recommendations without changes. At today's meeting, the Commission is asked to review and consider the joint ad hoc's recommendations.

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Berman to recommend the program proposed by Affordable Living for the Aging for funding by City Council in the amount of \$8,500. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to recommend the program proposed by All Saints' Homeless Assistance Program for funding by City Council in the amount of \$29,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Berman, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to recommend the program proposed by Bet Tzedek Legal Services for funding by City Council in the amount of \$220,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Berman to recommend the program proposed by Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (BHACC) for funding by City Council in the amount of \$20,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Berman to not fund the program proposed by Beverly Hills Bar Association. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Berman to recommend the program proposed by Beverly Hills CPR for funding by City Council in the amount of \$60,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Berman, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to not fund the additional \$10,000 proposed by Beverly Hills CPR. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Berman, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to recommend the program proposed by Cedars-Sinai Medical Care Foundation for funding by City Council in the amount of \$320 per client that they see over the course of a year. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Berman to not fund the program proposed by Chaya Community. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to recommend the program proposed by Chiron Center, Inc. for funding by City Council in the amount of \$30,000. (3/1)

AYES: Berman, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: Popovich Levyn  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to recommend the program proposed by Covia Episcopal Senior Communities for funding by City Council in the amount of \$30,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Berman to recommend the program proposed by ETTA for funding by City Council in the amount of \$50,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to recommend the program proposed by Growing Hope Gardens for funding by City Council in the amount of \$5,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Berman to not fund the program proposed by IsraAID. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Popovich Levyn, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to recommend the program proposed by Jewish Family Services for funding by City Council in the amount of \$275,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Berman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to recommend the program proposed by The Miracle Project for funding by City Council in the amount of \$15,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to recommend the program proposed by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) for funding by City Council in the amount of \$95,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to recommend the program proposed by the Saban Community Clinic for funding by City Council in the amount of \$35,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to recommend the program proposed by the Step Up on Second for funding by City Council in the amount of \$74,999. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Berman, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to recommend the program proposed by The Maple Counseling Center (TMCC) for funding by City Council in the amount of \$155,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Berman, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to recommend the program proposed by The Maple Counseling Center (TMCC) for funding by City Council in the amount of \$10,000 for the new program outlined in their proposal. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Berman, SECONDED by Blumenfeld to not fund the program proposed by Theatre 40. (2/2)

AYES: Berman, Vice Chair Blumenfeld  
NOES: Popovich Levyn, Chair Saleh  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
FAILED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Berman to not fund the program proposed by Tower Cancer Research Foundation. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Berman to recommend the program proposed by Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts for funding by City Council in the amount of \$10,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to recommend the program proposed by Westside Food Bank (WSFB) for funding by City Council in the amount of \$125,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

MOTION by Blumenfeld, SECONDED by Popovich Levyn to recommend the program proposed by Beverly Hills Educational Foundation (BHEF) for funding in-kind only by City Council in the amount of \$30,000. (4/0)

AYES: Berman, Popovich Levyn, Vice Chair Blumenfeld, Chair Saleh  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Friedman  
ABSTAIN: None  
PASSED

**4. Perpetual Plaque – Embrace Civility Award Winners**

To further enhance and celebrate the promotion of positive human relations throughout the City of Beverly Hills, the Human Relations Commission developed an Embrace Civility plaque. The plaque will be another means to commemorate each year's Embrace Civility Award Honorees starting from the first award giving in 2012. The plaque was completed and on display during the meeting.

- Chair Saleh reminded the Community to start thinking of nominations for this year's Embrace Civility Award.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**STATUS REPORTS**

**5. Beverly Hills Ambassador Program**

- Award/Certificate review: The Commission awarded their Above and Beyond certificate to Ambassador Kevin Phantonam, the type of Ambassador the City wants to cultivate, for



- his persistent actions in returning a cell phone, cash, credit cards and an ID, back to a resident. In the year that Kevin has worked as an Ambassador, he's has had 11,048 hospitality contacts.
- Kris Zagya, Ambassador Program Operations Manager, displayed the newly suggested Ambassador blue uniforms to the Commission.
- Human Services Administrator James R. Latta reminded the public of the Ambassador Hot Line number: 424-302-1487 in addition to the feedback form. The Ambassadors are now available 24-hours.
- The current statistics were reviewed which included shopping carts returns, garage door manipulated and panhandling.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

### **6. Chair Report**

- a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting
  - March 19, 2019 Highlights Reviewed
- b) Other items: brief announcements, request for information and brief reports on activities.
  - Chair Saleh announced that Los Angeles City Council approved a civil and human rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination and others form of bigotry in Los Angeles.
  - Vice Chair Blumenfeld updated the Commission on the 5<sup>th</sup> year of his hosting of students from Israel and meeting with Mayor Mirisch to discuss how government in the City of Beverly Hills is run.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

### **7. Administrator's Report**

Human Services Administrator, James R. Latta, provided an update on the following:

- Beverly Hills Senior Housing Opens Lottery drawing for 225 N. Crescent waiting list is scheduled for April 29 at 9:00 am in City Hall's Municipal Gallery.
- EOC opened on Friday April 5 for POTUS visit.
- Monday April 8, 2019 BHHS Student Career Day.
- April 10, 2019 JFS and BHFD Nurse Practitioner Team monthly Collaboration Meeting.
- April 23, 2019 Ambassador presentation to Next Beverly Hills Committee.
- April 24, 2019 Westwood Connect Day Community Event.
- May 9, 2019 Ambassador presentation at Get To Know Your City Open House.
- Congratulations to Nancy Hunt-Coffey on her promotion to Assistant City Manager.

Calendar for 2019 – 2020 Regular Meetings

- Reviewed.

### **8. Overview of Current and Pending Agenda Items**

- Launching Civility Month in October 2019 and nominations in September 2019.
- Chair Saleh requested the Commission to return with ideas for collaborating the Kindness Diaries.
  - Commissioner Popovich Levyn request all the past recipients of the Embrace Civility Award attend the October Commission meeting as a promotional kick-off.

**ADJOURNMENT**

April 18, 2019 at 11:43 a.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 16th day of May 2019.



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Annette Saleh, Chair